

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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Midwest Region Consumer Price Index (CPI) – June 2000

Retail prices in the Midwest rose 1.3 percent in June, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Bob Gaddie, Regional Commissioner, the monthly increase was led by a 15.4 percent increase in energy prices. Excluding energy, the Midwest CPI edged up 0.1 percent in June. Because regional CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the Consumer Price Index.

The increase in energy prices was broad-based, with all major energy commodities and services contributing. Motor fuels had the largest increase, rising 21.1 percent in June, followed by a 12.2 percent increase in utility natural gas prices and an 8.6 percent increase in electricity prices.

Transportation prices rose 4.2 percent in June. Private transportation costs rose 4.5 percent as the increase in motor fuels prices more than offset a 0.1 percent decline in prices for new and used vehicles. Over the last year, transportation prices have risen 11.8 percent, more than twice the increase in the all items index. The increase was led by a 59.8 percent increase in motor fuel prices, the largest one-year increase since early 1980. Costs for new and used motor vehicles were up 0.9 percent over the year.

Housing costs, which account for about 40 percent of the CPI, rose 1.5 percent in June. All major components of housing – shelter, fuels and utilities, and household furnishings and operations – contributed to the increase. Fuels and utilities contributed over half the increase in housing costs, rising 8.2 percent. Natural gas prices rose 12.2 percent, following a smaller increase in May. Electricity prices rose 8.6 percent, marginally less than the typical seasonal increase for June. Over the last five years, electricity prices in the Midwest have increased an average of 9.8 percent each June. Shelter prices rose 0.5 percent as rent of a primary residence rose 0.1 percent and owner's equivalent rent rose 0.2 percent. Prices for lodging away from home also rose. Household furnishings and operations prices increased 0.2 percent in June.

Over the year, housing costs were up 3.5 percent, driven by an 11.2 percent increase in household fuels and a 3.0 percent increase in shelter costs. Within household fuels, utility natural gas prices rose 26.0 percent while electricity prices edged up 0.5 percent.

Apparel prices declined 2.6 percent in June, following the traditional seasonal pattern. Apparel prices have declined an average of 2.6 percent in June of the last five years. Over the last twelve months, apparel prices fell 3.5 percent. Apparel is the only major expenditure group to experience a price decline over the last year.

Recreation costs rose 0.9 percent in June, following a 0.3 percent increase in May. Over the year, recreation prices were up 0.3 percent.

Medical care prices rose 0.5 percent in June. Prices for medical care commodities rose 0.6 percent while medical care services prices rose 0.5 percent. Over the year, medical care prices rose 4.3 percent, led by a 5.3 percent increase in professional medical services prices.

Education and communication prices declined 0.7 percent in June, following a small increase in May. Over the year, education and communication prices increased 1.6 percent.

Food and beverage prices were unchanged in June. Food at home prices edged down 0.1 percent while food away from home moved up 0.2 percent. Over the year, food and beverage prices were up 2.6 percent, led by a 3.4 percent increase in alcoholic beverage prices.

Other goods and services prices edged up 0.1 percent in June after dropping 1.4 percent in May. Over the entire year, prices for other goods and services were up 5.4 percent.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 169.5 in June, an increase of 4.3 percent from June 1999. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$169.50 in June 2000.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Midwest(1) (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2000	May 2000	June 2000	June 1999	Apr. 2000	May 2000
Expenditure category						
All items	166.9	167.4	169.5	4.3	1.6	1.3
All items (December 1977=100)	271.5	272.4	275.8	-	-	-
Food and beverages	164.2	165.0	165.0	2.6	.5	.0
Food	163.5	164.3	164.3	2.6	.5	.0
Food at home	162.2	163.4	163.2	2.4	.6	-.1
Food away from home	166.3	166.4	166.8	2.9	.3	.2
Alcoholic beverages	172.7	173.2	173.5	3.4	.5	.2
Housing	161.3	161.9	164.3	3.5	1.9	1.5
Shelter	187.1	187.8	188.7	3.0	.9	.5
Rent of primary residence (2).....	176.7	177.3	177.5	2.7	.5	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (2) (3)	191.1	191.7	192.1	2.5	.5	.2
Fuels and utilities	127.5	129.1	139.7	9.7	9.6	8.2
Fuels	110.4	112.1	123.1	11.2	11.5	9.8
Gas (piped) and electricity (2).....	115.0	116.9	128.8	10.5	12.0	10.2
Electricity (2).....	121.2	121.8	132.3	.5	9.2	8.6
Utility natural gas service (2).....	110.2	113.6	127.5	26.0	15.7	12.2
Household furnishings and operations	123.7	123.2	123.5	-.7	-.2	.2
Apparel	128.0	125.8	122.5	-3.5	-4.3	-2.6
Transportation	150.9	152.6	159.0	11.8	5.4	4.2
Private transportation	146.2	148.1	154.7	12.0	5.8	4.5
New and used motor vehicles (4).....	100.6	100.8	100.7	.9	.1	-.1
New vehicles	140.4	140.4	139.9	.1	-.4	-.4
New cars and trucks (4) (5).....	99.4	99.4	99.0	.1	-.4	-.4
New cars (5).....	134.9	134.8	134.3	.4	-.4	-.4
Used cars and trucks	153.9	155.3	155.7	3.3	1.2	.3
Motor fuel	124.9	131.3	159.0	59.8	27.3	21.1
Gasoline (all types)	124.3	130.7	158.4	59.8	27.4	21.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular (5).....	122.9	129.3	157.0	61.9	27.7	21.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (5) (6)....	137.0	144.3	174.2	57.4	27.2	20.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium (5).....	127.1	133.9	161.3	55.2	26.9	20.5
Medical care	254.3	254.3	255.6	4.3	.5	.5
Medical care commodities	232.9	231.4	232.7	1.6	-.1	.6
Medical care services	259.9	260.3	261.6	5.1	.7	.5
Professional services (2).....	240.5	241.1	242.5	5.3	.8	.6
Recreation (4).....	102.9	103.2	104.1	0.3	1.2	0.9
Education and communication (4).....	103.8	104.0	103.3	1.6	-.5	-.7
Other goods and services	266.5	262.7	263.0	5.4	-1.3	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	166.9	167.4	169.5	4.3	1.6	1.3
Commodities	147.0	147.3	149.6	5.1	1.8	1.6
Commodities less food and beverages	137.1	137.2	140.5	6.4	2.5	2.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	147.4	147.7	154.1	12.2	4.5	4.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	162.2	163.9	176.0	20.0	8.5	7.4
Durables	123.9	123.8	123.6	-.9	-.2	-.2
Services	188.0	188.7	190.7	3.8	1.4	1.1
Rent of shelter (3)	192.3	193.0	193.9	3.0	.8	.5
Transportation services	196.1	196.2	196.0	3.6	-.1	-.1
Other services	221.5	222.1	223.0	3.0	.7	.4

Special aggregate indexes

All items less medical care	162.3	162.8	164.9	4.3	1.6	1.3
All items less food	167.4	167.9	170.4	4.7	1.8	1.5
All items less shelter	161.1	161.6	164.2	4.9	1.9	1.6
Commodities less food	138.5	138.6	141.8	6.3	2.4	2.3
Nondurables	156.0	156.6	160.0	7.3	2.6	2.2
Nondurables less food	149.0	149.3	155.4	11.7	4.3	4.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	162.7	164.3	175.5	18.6	7.9	6.8
Services less rent of shelter (3)	193.7	194.4	197.6	4.6	2.0	1.6
Services less medical care services	181.6	182.3	184.3	3.7	1.5	1.1
Energy	116.2	120.0	138.5	31.9	19.2	15.4
All items less energy	174.3	174.4	174.5	2.2	.1	.1
All items less food and energy	176.9	176.9	177.0	2.1	.1	.1
Commodities less food and energy						
commodities	144.6	143.7	142.8	-.3	-1.2	-.6
Energy commodities	124.6	130.6	157.1	58.8	26.1	20.3
Services less energy services	197.2	197.8	198.5	3.3	.7	.4

1 The 'North Central' region has been renamed the 'Midwest' region by the Census Bureau. It is composed of the same geographic entities.

2 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

3 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

4 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

5 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

6 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map below.

